

[REDACTED]

February 10, 2004

Jeff Ottesen
Division of Program Development
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
State of Alaska
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau Alaska, 99801

Dear Mr. Ottesen,

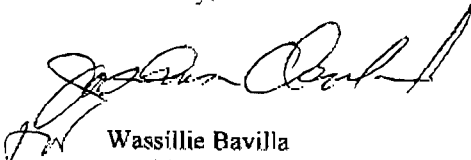
I am writing about the local official consultation process that was outlined in your letter dated January 8 2004. In this consultation process it stated that the ADOT& PF would consult the "organized City and Borough". I disagree that only cities and boroughs be consulted for a variety of reasons.

First, in these days of budget cuts many small cities are struggling to survive. It is apparent that many villages will have to follow one of two options within the foreseeable future. They will either dissolve their cities in favor of their tribal governments or they will merge their tribal and city administrations in the same manner that we have. In villages tribal governments have more resources to turn to for local governance and services than village administrated cities do.

If you do not include the federally recognized tribes in this process you also risk alienating a significant part of the state that you propose to consult with. Furthermore, with only tribal governments in some villages who will you consult on projects within their villages or village territories? You will have to include the tribes in villages especially where the city government is struggling to survive. As a village that has merged its municipality and tribe, I can tell you that we (The Native Village of Kwinhagak) are significantly more involved in decision making and administration involving the community of Quinhagak.

In short the State of Alaska needs to involve tribes more in State processes and functions in rural areas of the state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Wassillie Bavilla
President

Cc Mary Kapsner, State Representative
Lyman Hoffman, State Senator

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